

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



APRIL 2014



PAGE 2



PAGE 3



PAGE 6



PAGE 8

FIND US ONLINE!
BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV



Presort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit
#2293

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027



The return of the robin is a sure sign that spring has arrived. Thank you to Bloomington resident Frank Tester for submitting this beautiful image. Visit the City's website to submit your Bloomington photos and we'll add them to our Facebook album.

CONSTRUCTION SEASON BEGINS IN THE SOUTH LOOP

Construction in the South Loop District will resume this spring as the City undertakes a variety of major improvements designed to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, as well as attract more visitors and businesses to the South Loop. The following projects will be underway this spring and summer.

Lindau Lane grade separation

To prepare for future development north of Mall of America (MOA), Lindau Lane is being lowered and a bridge deck to connect buildings has been created over the street. Construction of the new bridge and retaining walls began last spring.

As a result of the construction, motorists can expect the following closures:

- Lindau Lane between 20th Avenue and 22nd Avenue.
- All exits to Lindau Lane from TH 77. Use Old Shakopee Road, Killebrew Drive or I-494 to 24th Avenue to access Lindau Lane from TH 77.

Access to MOA will remain open during construction. The bridge deck will include a landscaped public pedestrian plaza with a loop road to serve as a drop-off area for the mall. Construction is expected to be completed by November 2014. However, MOA's expansion construction will be underway to the north.

30th Avenue reconstruction

Construction on 30th Avenue between American Boulevard and East Old Shakopee Road will convert a private access area to a public street that connects Lindau Lane to north and south arterial streets. Construction is expected to be completed in mid- 2015.

Lindau Lane extension

This project creates a walkable street for pedestrian-friendly storefront development between the Mall of America and Bloomington Central Station. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-2015.

Local road wayfinding

Wayfinding helps drivers and pedestrians determine how to get where they want to go through the use of static metal or electronic signs that change messages, depending on traffic conditions. A sign at a fast food restaurant directing you to the drive-thru lane is one example of wayfinding. In the South Loop District, some roadways and intersections encounter substantial congestion, while other roads and intersections are relatively unused. To remedy this problem, signs will be used to provide motorists with information on best route options to South Loop destinations, freeway access points and parking.

To receive the latest updates on these and more South Loop projects, visit the South Loop page on the City's website and click on "Subscribe to e-mail updates about the South Loop District" at the top of the page.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.

PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE OUR STREETS

In addition to infrastructure projects taking place in the South Loop, the Pavement Management Program (PMP) will resume throughout Bloomington in April. In 2014, Public Works crews will complete 4.5 miles of road reconstruction, 30 miles of sealcoating and seven miles of overlay. For a listing of PMP streets and progress, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: PMP.





MAYOR’S MEMO

A YEAR OF NEW STARTS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington is alive and thriving as evidenced by the growing number of new hotels, housing, office and retail developments happening throughout the city. The value of new commercial, industrial and residential building permits reached \$125 million in 2013, and the City is on track to have another record year in 2014. By no means a complete list, below are just a few of the exciting new and ongoing developments in our city.

- Bloomington now has more housing options than in prior years, offering a wide variety for current and potential residents to choose from and making it easy for seniors who grew up or raised their families here to stay in the community and live comfortably. The latest options include:
- Covington Apartments**, 5701 Green Valley Drive – 250 apartments, opening summer 2014.
- Bloomington Central Station**, 34th Avenue and American Boulevard – 420 apartments. Construction may begin this summer.
- The Bluffs on Sans Pierre**, Lyndale and 107th Street – Villa homes and townhomes available now.
- Rahr Bluffs**, 8321 West 110th Street – 15 single-family homes. Construction is expected to begin fall 2014.
- Applewood Pointe of Bloomington at Valley West**, Beard Avenue and Old Shakopee Road – 77 senior apartments. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Hospitality is also growing in Bloomington with five new hotels, including the 118-room TownePlace Suites on the corner of 24th Avenue and Lindau Lane, and a proposed 300-room hotel at Bloomington Central Station, anticipated to begin construction this summer. The steady growth of hotel rooms, many located in the South Loop District, strengthens Bloomington’s status as a premiere destination. *See article on page 3.*

According to Community Development Director Larry Lee, residents will hear more about the implementation of the Penn American District Plan, rezoning, and continued public improvements and private developments in the South Loop District in 2014.

The City has a number of new park improvement projects slated for 2014, including construction of new concessions and restrooms at Toro Grandstand at Red Haddox Field and a new trail connecting Bloomington to Shakopee along the Minnesota River Valley. *See page 3.* The City is also exploring options for a new community center to replace the current Creekside Community Center.

Bloomington is on track for a productive and dynamic 2014. Look for more information to come on these and other projects in upcoming issues of the *Briefing*.

BRIEFING

Volume 22, Number 2

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258 (h)
952-563-8782 (w)
gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember At Large
Cynthia Bernis Abrams
952-833-0505 (h)
cabrams@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember At Large
Tim Busse
952-457-7506 (c)
tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District I
Dwayne Lowman
952-479-0226 (h)
dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District II
Andrew Carlson
952-242-5658 (h)
acarlson@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District III
Jack Baloga
952-944-5194 (h)
jbologa@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District IV
Jon Oleson
651-208-6586 (c)
joleson@bloomingtonmn.gov

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@BloomingtonMN.gov

CITY MANAGER

Mark Bernhardson 952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov

DIRECTORS

Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
llee@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
finance@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-881-4062
fire@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Kay McAloney, <i>Human Resources</i>	952-563-4898
kmcaloney@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Sandra Johnson, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-4895
legal@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Jeffrey Potts, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8601
police@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov	

General phone number 952-563-8700
The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

CITIZEN ALERT

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS FAQs

Bloomington’s Citizen Alert system sends time-sensitive emergency notifications directly to your home phone, cell phone via voice and text alerts, and e-mail. When you create an account, you’ll be able to select how you would like to receive alerts. Below are some frequently asked questions about the program.

What is the Citizen Alert program?

The Citizen Alert program allows you to opt in to receive notifications based on locations you care about. You can choose to receive notifications about emergency events that may affect your home, workplace, family’s schools and more. The Citizen Alert program is very different from *E-Subscribe*, the City’s e-mail subscription service, in that it sends only time-sensitive emergency alerts.

When will the alerts be used?

Citizen Alert will be used to notify you about imminent threats to your health and safety that affect your home or work environment. Emergency managers will send notifications regarding flooding, hazardous material releases, gas leaks, police activities, evacuations and more.

Will I get alerts if I don’t sign up?

No. If you don’t create an account, you will not receive notifications.

What if my phone number or e-mail address changes?

If your contact information changes, visit your profile page and update your information in order to continue to receive alerts.

Does the City of Bloomington share users’ contact information with vendors or other organizations?

No. The information you provide will be used only by the City of Bloomington for notification purposes, per the Minnesota Data Privacy Act. Under no circumstances will we give or sell your contact or location information to any vendor or other organization.

How do I sign up?

To sign up for Citizen Alert, visit the City’s website at BloomingtonMN.gov and click on the Citizen Alert icon on the left side of the homepage, then follow the prompts on the page.

NEW TRAIL WILL CONNECT BLOOMINGTON TO SHAKOPEE

Construction will begin this spring on the Hyland Trail, a new bike and pedestrian trail linking Hyland Park to the Bloomington Ferry Bridge river crossing. The trail will complete a north-south missing link in the regional trail system, forming a connection from Shakopee to Normandale Lake in Bloomington. In Scott County, the trail will continue from the Bloomington Ferry Bridge to Memorial Park in Shakopee.

“This project is a regional connection for commuters and recreational cyclists, giving them good access to cities on both sides of the river, as well as easy access to recreational trails in the Minnesota River Valley, Hyland Park and Scott County,” Bloomington City Engineer Shelly Pederson said.

This new segment is partially funded by a \$1 million federal grant. Construction of the trail is expected to be completed by fall 2014.



CITY TO UNVEIL NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

The Bloomington City Council recently approved a project to provide a significant update to the City’s website. The City of Bloomington has a long history on the Web. In 1996, staff launched its first website, becoming one of the first cities in the country to establish an online presence. The City’s website last underwent a redesign in 2006.

The website has become a primary way for residents and businesses to interact with the City. In 2013, the site registered a whopping 9.5 million page views from more than 500,000 individual visitors.

“The website is one of the City’s most-used communication tools today,” Communications Administrator Janine Hill said. “The redesign will ensure information is easy to find and allow us to add more functionality to the site that will meet the needs of more than 30 percent of users who visit with mobile devices – a number that is steadily increasing.”

The City will incorporate current best practices to ensure that the site’s content is easily accessible for people using assistive technology to visit the site. Accessibility is a top priority for the City’s redesigned site.

The City will be working with Minneapolis-based Electric Citizen to redesign the site to handle the needs of visitors and staff for many years to come. The tentative plan is to unveil the new design late in 2014.

Are you interested in having a say in the redesign? Visit BloomingtonMN.gov to offer your input.



NEW HOTELS COMING TO BLOOMINGTON

The Bloomington City Council recently approved plans for a new 118-room TownePlace Suites by Marriott on the northeast corner of 24th Avenue and Lindau Lane. Utah-based Terratron proposed the four-story hotel for a vacant property northeast of the Mall of America. The Port Authority agreed to sell the property to the developer for \$1.8 million. The hotel is expected to break ground this spring and open by spring 2015.

TownePlace Suites will be located near a 342-room JW Marriott luxury hotel planned on the north side of MOA that is expected to be completed in fall 2015.

The hotels are part of the growing lodging industry in Bloomington that also includes a proposed 300-room hotel at Bloomington Central Station, a 108-room Hilton Home2 Suites in the Penn American District, and a 100-room Hampton Inn in the Normandale Lake District. The 500-room Radisson Blu adjacent to the Mall of America opened in 2013.

Planning Manager Glen Markegard said hotels are attracted to Bloomington because of the Mall of America and Bloomington’s close proximity to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, major freeways and light rail transit.

“It’s definitely a boom time for hotels,” said Markegard. “These five hotels will add nearly 1,000 additional rooms to the 8,290 hotel rooms already in Bloomington.”

RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS PLANNING A SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?

Nearly 1,300 people received home improvement tips and ideas for their home remodeling projects at the February Home Improvement Fair. If you missed it, not to worry; you can watch the wide variety of how-to seminars that were recorded during the event by visiting the City’s website.

If you’re planning a home remodeling project, don’t forget to hire a licensed contractor and obtain the proper permits. Remember, Minnesota law requires most residential building contractors, remodelers and roofers be licensed by the state to ensure a minimum level of competency and protect the homeowner. Specialty contractors who perform only one task (e.g., masonry or carpentry) are exempt from state licensing. To determine whether a contractor has a state license, look for the license number on the contractor’s business cards, contracts, proposals, vehicles and permit applications.

For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME FAIR VIDEOS.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP

QUESTIONS?
CALL 952-563-8760.

Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. To prevent people from stealing copper and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, **please do not set appliances on the curb until the morning of your collection day.** Remember, trucks will go through only once.



WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CURBSIDE CLEANUP.



To receive Curbside schedule reminders, scan the QR code or visit the City's website, click on *E-Subscribe*, and sign up for e-mail updates.



2014 CLEANUP SCHEDULE

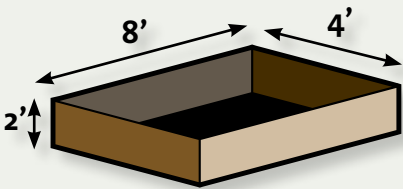
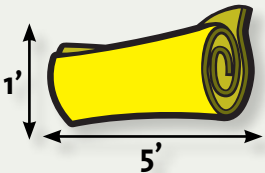
West of Normandale	April 19
Normandale to France	April 26
France to Penn	May 3
Penn to Portland	May 10
East of Portland	May 17

PREPARE FOR THE CLEANUP

- Items must be boxed or bundled with twine. Plastic bags are not acceptable. Note, containers and all their contents will be disposed of if on the curb.
- Seniors or residents who are disabled:** If you require assistance, contact your Neighborhood Watch block captains – or call Human Services two weeks in advance of the pickup for volunteer availability, 952-563-4944 or TTY 952-563-4933.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- General junk:** Boxed or bundled with twine – under 100 pounds per item.
- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied with twine. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- Appliances:** Water heaters and softners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove doors or tie securely shut), etc. **Limit TWO** appliances per house. **DO NOT set out appliances until morning of pickup.**
- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble or tie down hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.
- Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. **NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.**
- BUNDLED brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that can be carried by one person or they will not be picked up. Brush piles must be no more than what can fit in one level standard-size pickup truck.
- Mattresses/box springs.**
- Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (swing sets, barbeque grills, bikes, treadmills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.) Drain all fluids and remove tires. Smaller items should be taken to the Hennepin County Problem Materials Center, 1400 West 96th Street.



NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- Small scrap metal.**
- Tires and batteries.**
- Tubs, sinks and toilets.**
- Construction items:** Contractor materials, railroad ties, concrete, bricks and shingles (asbestos).
- Electronic goods:** TVs and computers.
- Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents, fluorescent tubes, propane and other household chemicals.
- Organic materials:** Leaves, grass clippings, sod, stumps, logs and food waste.
- Recyclable materials:** Newspapers, cans, glass, corrugated cardboard, boxboard and plastic bottles.



For tips on how to properly dispose of items not accepted at the curb, call 612-348-3777 or visit the *A to Z How-to-Get-Rid-of-It Guide* on Hennepin County's website at www.hennepin.us, keywords: **Get rid.**



Nine Mile Creek photo submitted by Jarid Rollins.



WATERSHED WARRIORS

Some of Bloomington's most valuable resources are its lakes and wetlands, including Nine Mile Creek and the Minnesota River. This delicately balanced, natural system changes constantly and relies on local watershed districts and residents to remain healthy. Watersheds, areas of land that drain rain water or snow into streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands, have a major impact on the health of our water bodies. A healthy watershed means a healthy lake, river, stream or wetland.

In 1983, the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization was formed to preserve and use natural water storage and retention systems to further protect our water bodies.

"Watersheds sustain life," Bloomington Civil Engineer Steve Segar said. "Clean, healthy watersheds benefit the environment by protecting and restoring wildlife habitat, reducing erosion, providing flood protection and improving downstream water quality. Watershed protection is a means of protecting a water body from pollution by managing the entire watershed that drains into it."

Watershed districts are local units of government that work to solve and prevent water-related problems. Watershed districts regulate, conserve and control water resources within the district. The boundaries of the districts follow those of a natural watershed. Bloomington has three watershed districts – Nine Mile Creek, Lower Minnesota River and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek – that cover nearly 40 square miles.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WATER RESOURCES.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS?

- ✓ Collect roof runoff in a rain barrel.
- ✓ Plant a rainwater garden or a tree.
- ✓ Pick up your pet waste.
- ✓ Maintain a healthy lawn with proper use of phosphorus-free fertilizers.
- ✓ Dispose of chemicals and hazardous waste at the Hennepin County Drop-off Facility and junk items at the Citywide Curbside Cleanup. *See sidebar at left.*

HELP KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

We all play a role in keeping chemicals and other hazardous materials out of our stormwater sewers and away from our watersheds. Illicit dumping of substances such as detergents, motor vehicle fluids, sanitary sewer overflows and industrial chemicals into catch basins, drains or water bodies can degrade water quality and threaten aquatic and human health.

The City has implemented an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program to eliminate non-stormwater discharges to improve water quality, but can use your help to keep our water clean. Residents who notice an unusual smell or water color, excessive plant growth or debris in water should observe from a distance and report their concerns to the City.

For more information or to report a suspected illicit discharge, call Engineering at 952-563-4870 or Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

There are several ways to get rid of unwanted items at home: set out objects for the Curbside Cleanup; donate quality goods to a local charity, or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales. The Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation, with support from Human Services, will hold the 2014 Bloomington Citywide Garage Sales, Thursday - Saturday, May 29 - 31. For more information, visit the City's website or call the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-831-3798.

AROUND THE CITY

A NEAT IDEA

The community contributed more than 20,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables to the Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) food shelf in 2013. That's a lot of produce to move before it spoils. Eggplant, winter squash and zucchini are often in abundance at the food shelf, but don't get enjoyed by VEAP customers because they aren't familiar with how to prepare the foods. Enter the Nutrition Education and Teaching (NEAT) Kitchen at VEAP.

The brainchild of Bloomington Public Health, VEAP, General Mills volunteers and the University of Minnesota Extension, the NEAT Kitchen is a place for food shelf clients to:

- Learn about nutrition and how to cook nutritious foods.
- Take home food made with the kitchen's commercial equipment that includes fruits and vegetables that are past peak freshness or too abundant for timely distribution.
- Taste food samples and sign up for cooking classes.

The teaching kitchen, designed by kitchen design consultant Bob Mather and retired General Mills employees, is run by volunteers who bake, teach and provide healthy food samples to food shelf clients. Bloomington Public Health Specialist Joan Bulfer said the first major cooking project the kitchen tackled was a healthy version of banana bread, using whole wheat flour, healthier oil and less sugar.

"The NEAT Kitchen is a wonderful example of the perfect storm of opportunity that occurs when a public, nonprofit and private sector partnership is formed," Bulfer said.

The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) helped fund this project.



GET IN SHAPE THIS SPRING

Human Services has a variety of fitness opportunities available for older adults. All classes are offered at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

To register for the classes below, call 952-563-4944 or visit Creekside.

Self-defense for seniors

Avoid being a victim. Learn how to protect yourself and gain confidence with this free self-defense class taught by instructor Ken Marini, Wednesdays, 3 - 4 p.m.

Low-impact exercise

This free, fun and social class will help you increase your range of motion, strength and endurance, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Zumba Gold

Enjoy Latin dance for the ultimate cardiovascular workout. This class, held Fridays, 9 - 10 a.m., uses choreographed exercises to target your heart, lungs and the muscles of your hips, legs and arms. The cost of a 7-week session is \$35 for residents and \$49 for nonresidents.

HUMAN SERVICES UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

To register for any of the programs or events below, call 952-563-4944 or 952-563-4933 TTY or visit the City's website. Programs take place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, unless otherwise noted.

ARE YOU A CAREGIVER?

Human Services will host a workshop for caregivers on **Tuesday, May 6, 6 - 7:30 p.m.** This free workshop will provide information on exercise and mobility issues. A complimentary dinner will be served. Registration deadline is Friday, May 2. This workshop is cosponsored by HomeCare Assistance.

ARTHRITIS COMMUNITY SEMINAR

Arthritis specialists from Abbott Northwestern Hospital and the Arthritis Foundation will lead a free community seminar about living with arthritis, **Tuesday May 13, 1- 3 p.m.** To register, call the Arthritis Foundation at 651-644-4108.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

This free workshop is perfect for those in the mental healthcare field who want to learn how to help their patients avoid financial, personal and emotional exploitation. The workshop takes place **Friday, May 16, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.** Space

is limited and registration is required.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR KITE DAY

Kite flyers of all ages are invited to the annual Kite Day celebration. This free event takes place at Valley View Play Fields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue, **Saturday, May 17, 1- 4 p.m.** Bring your own kite or receive a free one at the event. Kite Day is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Zeigler Power Systems, Minnesota Kite Society

and the Breakfast Optimist Club of Bloomington. For more information, call 952-563-8733 or visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: KITE DAY.

POETRY READING

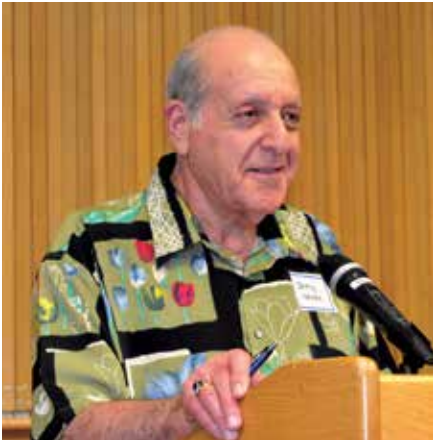
Join award-winning poet Jerry Neren for the 3rd Annual Poetry Reading on **Saturday, May 17, 2 - 4 p.m.** The reading will feature new poems written by Neren and his students. Light refreshments will be served. This free event is cosponsored by Home Care Assistance.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Human Services invites you to join Mike Lynch for a special lunch event on **Wednesday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.**, at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Lynch will share his passion for weather and astronomy and how he turned both into a career spanning 40 years. Whether he is hosting star-watching parties in the community, working as a meteorologist at WCCO Radio or writing columns for the *Pioneer Press*, he continues to stay active by pursuing his favorite interests. Registration deadline is Friday, May 16.

FLOWER CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy gardening? Human Services is seeking volunteers to be part of a flower club to plant and maintain flower beds in Bloomington. The beds will be located at Normandale Lake and Creekside Community Center. Choose to work at one or both locations. The time commitment is approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour, 2 - 3 days a week. The flower club provides gentle exercise and a great way to make new friends.



JOIN A LEAGUE
SUMMER SAND VOLLEYBALL

Parks and Recreation is now accepting registrations for Adult Co-Rec Summer Sand Volleyball. Matches will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning **Wednesday, May 28**, at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: VOLLEYBALL.



ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL

Competitive and recreational adaptive softball leagues for adults 19 and older and youth ages 10 - 18 **begin June 23**. Adult leagues play Tuesdays, June 24 - August 12, and youth leagues play Mondays, June 23 - August 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road. Cost to play is \$60 and includes a team shirt and photo.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ADAPTIVE.

ALTERNATIVE ADULT SPORTS

Bloomington, Edina, St. Louis Park, and Richfield Parks and Recreation have partnered to offer nontraditional options for adult sports leagues, including inner tube water polo, baggo (bean bags) and lacrosse. Leagues begin in June and run 7 - 10 weeks. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit the [City's website](#).



STEP TO IT CHALLENGE

Do you want to get in shape this spring? The Step to It Challenge, a four-week, friendly competition **beginning May 4**, is a great way to get moving again after a long winter. More than 20 Twin Cities communities will compete. Track your daily activities online for a chance to win prizes and be honored by Hennepin County and the Minnesota Twins at a Twins home game during the 2014 season.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: STEP TO IT.

DON'T WAIT IN LINE
OPENING WEEKEND!

Avoid opening weekend lines and purchase your Bush Lake Beach season parking pass or Bloomington Family Aquatic Center season pass at the Parks and Recreation counter at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

PROGRAMS THAT GET YOU MOVING

Bloomington Parks and Recreation has planned an exciting summer full of programs and activities for all ages to enjoy. For information on any of these programs or to register, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit the [City's website](#).



THE EGG HUNT IS ON!

Don't miss the annual family Egg Hunt for kids ages eight and younger, sponsored by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club, **Saturday, April 19, 9:30 - 11 a.m.**, at Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street. The hunt begins at 11 a.m.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: EGG HUNT.



SPECTRUM OF FUN

Summer Spectrum classes and camps emphasize learning in a safe and nurturing environment. The fun begins **Monday, June 16**. Summer Spectrum is open to all youth, pre-K through 9th grade. Morning classes and camps are held at Oak Grove Elementary School, 1301 West 104th Street.

Summer Spectrum is a collaboration among Bloomington Public Schools' Community Services, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, and the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center. Summer activity catalogs are mailed to all parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools. For more information, visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER SPECTRUM.



VISIT THE BLOOMINGTON FAMILY
AQUATIC CENTER

301 East 90th Street

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center features a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play areas and NEW water slides, diving boards, and a renovated bathhouse and concession stand.

When: June 14 - August 17 and weekends through Labor Day.

Weekdays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Weekends: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Holidays: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Daily passes		
Age	Daily admission	After 5 p.m.
1 and under	Free	Free
2 - 5 years	\$7.50	\$6.50
6 - 54 years	\$9.50	\$7.50
55+ years	\$7.50	\$6.50
Season passes		
Age	Resident	Non-resident
2 - 10 years	\$16.75	\$41.50
11 - 15 years	\$28.50	\$53.50
16 - 54 years	\$53.75	\$80.00
55+ years	\$16.75	\$41.50

Season passes are available for purchase **now through June 10** at the Parks and Recreation counter in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You may also purchase passes at the Aquatic Center, **June 11 - 13, 4 - 7 p.m.**, or during regular business hours beginning June 14.

A parent or guardian must purchase passes for children under 18 years of age. A driver's license or state ID is required to verify residency.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: AQUATIC CENTER.



BUSH LAKE BEACH

9140 East Bush Lake Road

You don't need to go up north to find a lake to enjoy. You can have a picnic lunch, build a sand castle with the kids, practice your backstroke or just relax and soak up the sun right in your own backyard at beautiful Bush Lake Beach. A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to East Bush Lake Park, June 1 - August 31. East Bush Lake Park is staffed June 14 - August 17, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., daily with lifeguards on duty beginning at 11 a.m.

Season parking permits for Bush Lake Beach are now available for purchase. Cost is \$33.50 for the season (June through August) or \$6.75 daily.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: BUSH LAKE BEACH.

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS



PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIPS

Enjoy a variety of games, sports, and arts and crafts at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street, or Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South.

Dates: June 30 - July 3, August 18 - 22 and August 25 - 29.
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Ages: Youth in grades 1 - 7.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: [PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP](#).



SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Get to know your neighbors and join your friends for an awesome summer of fun at your neighborhood playground.

Date: June 16 - August 15 (No program June 30 - July 3.)
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Locations: Brye, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood parks.
Ages: Youth in grades 1 - 7.
Cost: \$101 on or before June 2; \$111 on or after June 3.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: [SUMMER ADVENTURE](#).

SUMMER ADVENTURES AT THE VIEW

Date: Monday - Friday, June 16 - August 15.
(No program June 30 - July 4.)
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Valley View Middle School,
8900 Portland Avenue South.
Ages: Youth in grades 1 - 5.
Cost: \$101 on or before June 2; \$111 on or after June 3. Sack lunches provided.



GALAXY SUMMER OF SERVICE

Date: Monday - Friday, June 16 - August 15.
(No program June 30 - July 3.)
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Valley View Middle School,
8900 Portland Avenue South.
Ages: Youth in grades 6 - 8.
Cost: \$200 for summer or \$50 per week. Sack lunches provided.

FOOT GOLF COMING TO HYLAND

Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center is introducing the sport of foot golf this spring. Foot golf is a sport where players kick a soccer ball into a 21-inch cup in as few shots as possible. The rules largely follow the rules of regular golf. The only other course offering foot golf in the Twin Cities metro area is in White Bear Lake. To watch a video of foot golf in action, visit the City's website. For more information, contact Golf Course Manager Rick Sitek at 952-563-8868.

RENT A PICNIC SHELTER

Picnic shelters are available to rent April 15 - October 15 for picnics, receptions, reunions, meetings and more. Shelters have electricity, grills and restrooms. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails, and softball fields.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: [PICNIC SHELTERS](#).



BREAK OUT THE KAYAKS AND CANOES

Attention, canoe and kayak owners! There is no better location than Bush Lake to paddle and store your canoe or kayak. Racks are available for rent, **May 1 - October 31**, for a fee of \$70 each plus tax. The racks are located in West Bush Lake Park, 9401 West Bush Lake Road, near the launch area.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: [CANOE RACKS](#).



VEHICLE DAY

Vehicle Day is **Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, at Southdale Shopping Center parking lot in Edina. Here's your chance to get an up close and personal look at the vehicles you see around town. Kids will have the opportunity to sit in the driver's seat of Public Works, Fire and Police vehicles. City employees will be on hand to answer questions about their vehicles and jobs.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: [VEHICLE DAY](#).

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PERFORMANCES THAT ARE SURE TO ENTERTAIN



Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

Music in 3D

Artistic Director and Conductor Manny Laureano presents this magical concert featuring Strauss's Death and Transfiguration, Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Sibelius's Swan of Tuonela at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard.

Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m.
Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, students admitted free with ID



Barbary Coast

Dixieland Show Band

Together since 1967, Bloomington's own Barbary Coast take their authentic Dixieland jazz around the world and bring it back home again! The joy they experience playing their music and being among friends is infectious.

Schneider Theater, Bloomington Center for the Arts
Saturday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$25, Seniors \$22, 25 and under \$18



NOTE-able Singers

Let's Go to the Movies

Let's go see the stars! Sitting in the darkness with popcorn on your knee, let the Note-able Singers transport you to the movies as they perform Hollywood's best movie music. Hum along to the catchy tunes and enjoy the lively choreography. Let's go to the movies!

Schneider Theater, Bloomington Center for the Arts
Sunday, June 1, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, 5 and under free

DID YOU KNOW?

Bloomington Police dogs live with their handlers their whole lives and retire when they do.



MEET THE BPD’S TWO NEWEST EMPLOYEES

In anticipation of upcoming retirements, Bloomington Police recently welcomed two new canines to its K-9 Unit. Hyde and Brody are Belgian Malinois/German shepherd mixes from Slovakia. The dogs are currently attending the Saint Paul Police Department’s K-9 training school with their handlers Officers Jeremy Pilcher, *top photo above*, and Mike Perron, *bottom photo above*, where they will learn obedience, human scent recognition and crime suspect apprehension.

After their training, Hyde and Brody will join Riggs, Barney and Caine in the Patrol Division. The K-9 Unit also includes Echo, a German shorthair who works as an explosives detection dog at the Mall of America, and Breaker, a Springer spaniel who is trained in narcotics detection and is assigned to a detective in the Narcotics Unit.

The canines assigned to the Patrol Division are most often used to search for people, both crime suspects and missing people, but are also trained for narcotics detection. At the end of the work day, all K-9 Unit dogs go home with their handlers. A total of 20 canines has worked for the City since the program began in 1987.

MAKING PUBLIC SAFETY A PRIORITY

BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTERS GET THEIR FEET WET TO SAVE LIVES

On April 18, 2013, Bloomington firefighters responded to a call for a water rescue at the Off-leash Recreation Area for Dogs, West 110th Street and Nesbitt Avenue. The caller reported that a dog had fallen through the ice of a nearby pond and the dog’s handler was attempting to rescue it. Bloomington firefighters arrived at the scene and found the dog in distress 40 feet from shore. Two firefighters entered the water, wearing cold-water rescue suits and rescued the dog.

In Bloomington, rescue missions that involve people or animals falling through the ice can occur as early as November and as late as April. That’s why, each year, Bloomington’s 120 volunteer firefighters participate in cold-water rescue training. The training does not require firefighters to know how to dive – the City has a team of 15 firefighters who are certified dive-rescuers. Conducted five times a year on Bush Lake, the exercise is focused on single-victim rescue situations. Two firefighters wearing protective suits jump in the water to retrieve the victim. The firefighters then wrap a harness around the victim to make it possible for crew members on shore to pull him or her out of the water and back to safety. Once the victim is out of the water, the victim is transported to a waiting paramedic or Fire Department vehicle and brought to a local hospital.

To reach victims who may be stranded in hard-to-reach areas along trails or river bluffs, firefighters use snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). According to Assistant Fire Chief Jay Forster, the City owns two snowmobiles, two ATVs and a rescue trailer that can be dispatched if someone were to be stranded in a remote area.

“This past winter we responded to a potential heart attack victim in a remote area along the Minnesota River,” he said. “The trail was snow-packed and only accessible by snowmobiles and ATVs. Firefighters reached the victim, provided medical attention and transported him to a waiting ambulance.”

During the warmer months, firefighters who are certified divers use the City’s rescue boats to rescue victims from the open water. Rescue divers also participate in training exercises several times per year.



KEEP YOUR PRECIOUS CARGO SAFE

Did you know that nearly 75 percent of child safety seats are installed incorrectly? Come to one of the City’s monthly car seat clinics and a Bloomington firefighter or police officer will check whether your car seat is properly installed. Car seat clinics take place at Bloomington Fire Station #1, 10 West 95th Street, on the third Thursday of each month, 6 - 8 p.m. Call the Fire Department at 952-563-4801 for an appointment.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and a good time to think about the role we all play in making Bloomington a safer place for children and families.

The Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD) has investigators who respond to reports of alleged child abuse and neglect toward children living in Hennepin County. Four of these investigators work in Bloomington.

HSPHD received 15,000 calls in 2013 regarding child protection-related concerns and assigned more than 5,000 cases for assessment by child protection investigators. Families requiring services to address child protection concerns are referred for case management and related social services.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, contact Hennepin County Child Protection at 612-348-3552. To learn about additional services and resources, contact Hennepin County Front Door for Services at 612-348-4111.



Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to grow. The City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds an annual public tree sale. Based on last year’s sales, 300 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.

GROW SOME GREEN
ANNUAL TREE SALE ADDS HUNDREDS OF TREES TO LANDSCAPE

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare-root, 1.25 to 1.5 inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name

Phone

Address

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

Autumn Blaze red maple

American Sentry linden

Hackberry

Imperial honeylocust

Northwood red maple

Prairie Fire crab apple

River birch

Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees

X \$50 ea. = \$

Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on Saturday, May 3, 9 - 11 a.m.

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.

PAGE 8

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, APRIL 2014